THE
CATHOLIC RADICAL

"...to foster a society based on creed instead of greed." Peter Maurin

April/May 2016 ***Price: For whatever it's worth.***

Fed Up With Sexism

by Scott Schaeffer-Duffy

In Agra, India, not far from the Taj Mahal, there is a restaurant staffed largely by some of the thousands of women whose faces have been horribly disfigured by acid attacks, a brutal tactic employed by rejected lovers. Up to 20,000 women a year, mostly from the Middle East and Asia, who flee abusive or forced marriages are tracked down and then stoned, stabbed, burned, or beheaded by members of their own families in so-called "honor killings." In 27 African countries, Indonesia, Yemen, and Iraqi Kurdistan, the genitals of young girls are mutilated so they will never be able to experience sexual pleasure. Ninety-eight percent of girls in Somalia are subjected to this ghastly act. In India, female infanticide takes the life of one in twelve girls. If a first child in China is a girl, 92% of second daughters are aborted. In Saudi Arabia, women can be whipped for leaving their home without a male escort, for dancing, for not covering themselves from head to toe, or for driving a car. In many countries, women victims of physical or sexual abuse have no legal recourse. Add to these outrages: bride burning, sexual slavery, child marriage, rape, and discrimination in the workplace.

Considering that women carry, bear, and nurse children— heroic tasks essential for the continuation of the species—it boggles the mind that they are not regarded with extraordinary respect by the opposite gender. The myth that women are the weaker sex has long been refuted by extraordinary female athletes, able politicians, brilliant academics, and business leaders. And yet, women continue to live to a greater or lesser extent under a sexist thumb.

As a son, brother, husband, father, and Catholic, sexism makes me furious. My mother, a talented scholar, dropped out of Bates College to marry my father. She did not have a driver's license or job outside the home until she was 45. My father, a professional cook, insisted nonetheless that it was my mother's job to make all the meals. He made all major decisions for our family, many of them unwise. My sisters did not receive the same encouragement

(Continued on Page 5)

Don't Move Guantanamo

by Matthew W. Daloisio

President Obama's plan to close the prison at Guantanamo is finally here. But it's as useless as the Executive Order he signed almost eight years ago.

Republican candidates and leaders have shoved the plan back in Obama's face, repeating the big lie that the prison houses only "the worst of the worst." The media has declared the proposal "dead on arrival," quickly returning to its saturation coverage of a primary season verging on farce.

Obama's plan proposes to close the facility but not end the legal and moral abomination it represents. Indefinitely detaining men without charge or trial in the continental United States — in supermax prisons no less — is as unacceptable as indefinite detention at Guantanamo. The Military Commissions are unworkable and unfair, and cannot be tweaked into legitimacy. Saving money by changing the zip code of an unjust system does nothing to lessen its moral cost. Any talk of expenses should be about how to offer compensation to the men the United States abused and provide proper resources for their resettlement [and rehabilitation].

The president's plan is silent on our nation's accountability for the torture it has perpetrated at Guantanamo. That torture continues through force-feeding those prisoners who protest their detention by hunger striking. Indefinite detention is itself a means of torture, as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture has stated.

The idea that Guantanamo was ever

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Vol. 32, No. 5 THE CATHOLIC RADICAL April/May 2016

Published every two months by:
The Saints Francis & Thérèse Catholic Worker Community
52 Mason Street, Worcester, MA 01610 Telephone: (508) 753-3588, 753-3089
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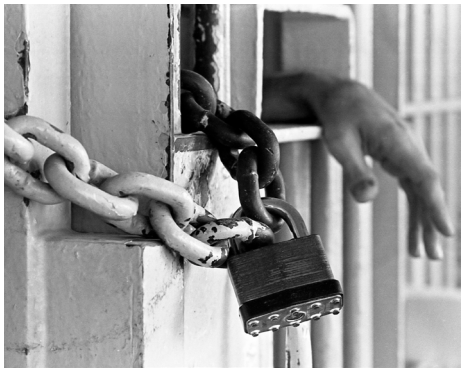
Founded in 1933 by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, the Catholic Worker is a lay movement serving the poor while denouncing injustice and proclaiming peace. We are not tax exempt. We rely entirely on the generosity of our supporters to meet our expenses. We welcome volunteers, letters, poetry, articles, artwork, and donations.

Guantanamo

(Continued from Page 1)

simply about national security is a fiction. Guantanamo was, is, and will continue to be an internment camp for Muslim men that is designed to destroy human beings. It both feeds and feeds off an Islamophobia that has gripped much of the country since 9/11. It sustains the racism and fear-mongering behind the mass incarceration



of African Americans, Latino/as, and the poor, challenged by a new movement Obama claims to support. There can be no true tolerance so long as the prison at Guantanamo, or its terrible spirit, lives on.

Maybe Obama is naïve enough to believe that he really tried to close the prison. Republican opposition has been sickening. But Obama's own lack of will, his political blunders, and his failure to truly reckon with Guantanamo have been among the greatest barriers. His speech presenting the plan was all about "our security" — what holding, or releasing, the men at the prison means for American safety — and not "our crimes" — what the United States did to the men there. A sense of shame, above all, should drive action on the prison.

As we gathered in front of the White House last month to mark the prison's opening fourteen years ago, we spoke a vision of justice beyond failed promises and the cynicism of politics:

We hear a beautiful sound.
It is the breaking of chains.
We see a path full of hope.
We have found the way.
Let them go home.
Let them go home.
Let them go home. Ω

Editor's Note: The author is a founding member of Witness Against Torture. For more information go to: www.witnessagainsttorture.com.

Legal Grounds for Setting Guantanamo Detainees Free

Many detainees were turned over to the US in exchange for bounties with no physical evidence. Hearsay evidence fails to meet the burden of proof and is therefore inadmissible. In a trial, if the prosecution finishes presenting their case and the judge finds they have not met their burden of proof, the judge may dismiss the case.

Evidence obtained for money or by coercion is inadmissible at trial because it is deemed so unreliable that a court should not consider it as part of deciding a case. In addition, in criminal cases, evidence that is gathered using illegal methods is commonly ruled inadmissible.

Interrogators who tortured detainees overseas and those who conspired with them to do so might be liable under 18 U.S. Code § 2340A, which states: "Whoever outside the United States commits or attempts to commit torture shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both."

Those same interrogators and those who conspired with them may also be guilty under international law of violating the Geneva Convention of 1949 which states: "No moral or physical coercion may be exerted on a prisoner of war in order to induce him to admit himself guilty of the act of which he is accused."

By having held detainees for 15 years without trial, the US may also be guilty of violating the Geneva Convention's law that: "No prisoner of war may be convicted without having had an opportunity to present his defence and the assistance of a qualified advocate or counsel."

By failing to try detainees, the US has denied them the right of Habeas Corpus, a fundamental right to seek and receive relief from unlawful imprisonment.

It is standard legal practice in the American system to follow Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) which authorizes the dismissal of a plaintiff's claim for failure to prosecute.

Believing someone is a criminal is not the same as proving it in a court of law. Under the American system, imprisonment without trial and conviction is a serious abuse of human rights. Establishing a precedent that it can be done to detainees endangers everyone's civil liberties. Ω

Habeas Corpus
"Guardian of Personal Liberty"

The Boston Globe

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2016

In the news

Wages tied to CEO pay

Senator Elizabeth Warren's bill requiring all employees to be paid 5% of the wage of top managers was signed into law yesterday. The new annual minimum wage of $69,000 is expected to stimulate growth. **A 6.**

Pee-wee Herman throws his hat into the ring for president.**B3.**

Onlookers dance as Walmarts are replaced with mom and pop stores. **B4.**

It blows

Saturday: Windy! High 33 Low 28

Sunday: Windy! High 33 Low 28

Monday: S.S.D.D. Complete report, **B 7.**

POINT OF VIEW:
MEL ODIE

"The news that Pussy Riot and Justin Bieber have agreed to host a concert for human rights is great." **D1.**

Suggested retail priceless

Climate moves capital

Sea rise favors Worcester

By Lula Buy
GLOBE STAFF

BOSTON— After the warmest winter on record confirmed predictions that Boston would be under water by 2023, Governor Baker signed into law a bill to relocate the state capital 36 miles inland to Worcester. When Worcester Mayor Petty heard the news, he said, "About time. After all, we are the Heart of the Commonwealth."

Although the decision has been made, the process will take more than six years to complete. Not only government buildings, but also historic and cultural sites are going to be moved. Old Ironsides, the Navy's oldest commissioned war ship, will now be docked on Lake Quinsigamond. The Museum of Fine Arts will be an auxiliary to the Worcester Art Museum. Fenway Park is going to be painstakingly recreated in Kelly Square with a Citgo sign on Vernon Hill. The move from Beacon to Bancroft Hill should be completed before waves lap the shore in Newton ...

WORMTOWN, Page A2

Statehouse jacked for the move

New author wins Pulitzer

Book flies off shelves

By Don Apparel
GLOBE STAFF

WORCESTER— First-time author, Scott Schaeffer-Duffy was the surprise winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Literature with his best-selling book *Nothing Is Impossible*. The biographical collection of stories, released on March 13 of this year, is already in its sixth printing. The book has been translated into nine languages and is being considered for two movies and a television series. Schaeffer-Duffy, an incredibly humble person, said, "I'm just happy to make others happy." Literary critic David Williams, put it bluntly, "Scott Schaeffer-Duffy: genius or saint?" The pope...

SCHAEFFER-DUFFY, Page B2

"I thought I was going to take a bath on this book." —Scott Schaeffer-Duffy

Harvard to pay students

Faust makes deal

By May Q. Pay
GLOBE STAFF

CAMBRIDGE— Harvard University President Drew Faust made the surprise announcement yesterday that beginning immediately the prestigious school will not only eliminate all charges for its students, but also pay them $2,000. With the world's largest endowment of $36 billion, Harvard can do this by spending only 4% of its wealth.

When asked if this was a one-time gesture, Faust said, "We can easily do this until 2038 and make the change permanent if each Harvard alum pledges to donate $5 annually."

Faust's announcement sent shock waves through the halls of academia. Yale, with its $25.6 billion and MIT with it $13.5 billion endowments, are expected to quickly follow Harvard's lead. Catholic schools, like Boston College and Holy Cross, are likely to jump on the bandwagon too because of the injunctions of saints Luke and James against savings in the face of human need.

When asked his thoughts, presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders said, "Why stop here? Why not offer to...

HARVARD, Page A4

Trump goes to Gitmo

HAVANA— Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump's attempt to prove that water-boarding is not torture by undergoing the technique at the US prison in Guantanamo Bay backfired. The procedure was so "torturous" that Trump now has begun calling for its abolition...

TRUMP, Page A5

Breath

by David Williams

The people I come from were thrown away
as if they were nothing, whatever they might have
said become stone, beyond human patience,
except for the songs. But what is their daily
breath against all the ardent, cunning
justifications for murder?

The stunned drone of grief becomes the fierce,
tender undertone that bears up the world,

steady as a river grinding soil out of stone.
I'm thirsty for words to join that song —
cupped hands at the spring, a cup of
rain passed hand to hand, rain pooled
on stone, a living jewel, a clear
lens trembling with our breath. Ω

Editor's Note: Reprinted with the author's permission from **Traveling Mercies**.

Gustave Stettler

Brave Kate

by Claire Schaeffer-Duffy

I felt tender towards the woman enduring his rant. She was young, fresh-faced, of sweet demeanor. At 55, I had watched, fascinated, as many a screamer shouted disapproval of the signs I carried. Signs denouncing killing, exclusion, disregard. Their open mouths hurling hot, hate-filled air to dissolve my message. I wanted to shield the young woman from such currents. But she stood resolute. Set her jaw firmly, this Irish-American teacher of immigrant children. Anchored herself behind the foam-core sign — *Immigrants make U.S. stronger* — as crowds eager to view the preacher of exclusion poured past her. The drunken man swaggered his anti-immigrant heat in her face.

And she did not budge.

All week, I had quaked in fear for the generation to follow. We live in a time when annihilation is flaunted. Videos of beheadings. Videos of bombings. Poisonous, fear-filled words blithely broadcast. Who among the young has the hope and heart to face this? Brave Kate. Standing unmoved, unafraid, exuding a quiet inspiring courage. Ω

Expect Nothing

by Alice Walker

Expect nothing. Live frugally
On surprise.
become a stranger
To need of pity
Or, if compassion be freely
Given out
Take only enough
Stop short of urge to plead
Then purge away the need.

Wish for nothing larger
Than your own small heart
Or greater than a star;
Tame wild disappointment
With caress unmoved and cold
Make of it a parka
For your soul.

Discover the reason why
So tiny human midget
Exists at all
So scared unwise
But expect nothing. Live frugally
On surprise. Ω

Vincent Van Gogh

Dreams

by Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.
Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow. Ω

Sexism

(Continued from Page 1)

to go to college as I did. By the time I married, I hoped America was entering a post-sexist age. My wife and I hyphenated our names and made a conscious effort to make decisions together. From her earliest age, I stressed to my daughter, "There's nothing my Grace can't do." While she has grown up as a force to be reckoned with, nightmarish discrimination against women persists.

What can be done? International campaigns against grossly sexist practices like female genital mutilation, child marriage, "honor" killing, sexual slavery, and abuse need to become priorities. The basic human right for women to be treated equally needs to be stressed in every corner of the globe. Governments which discriminate against women need to be pressured to change. Businesses that mistreat women should be boycotted. Zero tolerance for sexism must become the norm.

These suggestions are the easy ones because they point the finger away from ourselves. The more daunting task is rooting out the underlying causes of sexism in institutions we hold dear and in our own daily lives. Sexism is so pervasive that we often do not even notice it.

My son and daughter-in-law walked out of Mass this weekend after an elderly priest used his homily for an anti-Islamic rant. Without a hint of irony, the member of an all-male clergy derided Muslims for mistreating women. In truth, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam all use the belief that God is a man as a basis for discrimination against women. While many Protestants and reform Jews have done remarkable work to overcome patriarchy, the bulk of Western religions have not. In a typical mosque and orthodox synagogue, women are barred from the primary prayer space and are expected to wear head gear and clothing not required for men. In Catholic and Orthodox churches, the clergy and preachers are entirely male. In the Catholic prayer book, sexist language for God and humanity is still the norm. The Catholic creed, recited at Mass, describes Jesus as having come to earth "for us *men* and our salvation." Where does that leave women?

Some may say that it is a bridge too far to suggest that sexist language has a direct connection to atrocities like throwing acid at a woman's face, but I disagree. I think hatred of women originates with and is fertilized by language.

I try to be careful about sexism, but am amazed to see how often it creeps into my everyday speech. When I take my granddaughter each week to see the animals at a local pet store, it took me a while to realize that I pointed out every bird, fish, rodent, and reptile with a male pronoun. "Isn't he cute? Look what he's doing?" How do I know the gender of any of those animals? By calling every one of them male, I subtly communicate to my granddaughter that it is a male world, a

world where females occupy the margin.

And it isn't only men who perpetuate sexism. At a weekly story hour, female librarians overwhelming present picture books with boys as the main characters. At a weekly animal show-and-tell, the predominantly female group of toddlers are greeted by a women with "Welcome, guys." Once you start to look for it, you will be amazed at how often girls and women are simply erased from our speech and narratives.

I believe that equality for women will not be achieved until sexism of any type and in any corner is rejected. Although it is not politically correct, I reject the notion that religious sexism deserves toleration. It made my blood boil to see Christian widows in Bosnia walk around dressed head to toe in black under the blazing sun while widowers were only obligated to wear dark pants and a short-sleeved white dress shirt. I was similarly appalled to see women in Afghanistan with a burka covering every inch of their bodies. With their eyes and mouths shielded by a screen, they looked like ghosts in a sheet on Halloween, while Afghan men sauntered around without encumbrance. Although less restrictive than a burka, I oppose Muslim head scarfs for women. I also reject the traditional morning prayer of Jewish men thanking God "for not making me a woman."

There is light though. Women rabbis are becoming common in reform Jewish congregations, just as women clergy are now leading many Protestant congregations. Dr Margot Badran, a graduate of al-Azhar University and Oxford University, is part of a growing movement of Islamic feminists who seek "gender equality for women and men in the totality of their existence...as part and parcel of the Quranic notion of equality of all *insan* (human beings)."

And now, Pope Francis has broken with the tradition that the Holy Thursday re-enactment of Jesus' washing of his apostles' feet should only include men. Francis' decision to wash the feet of men, women, and even non-Christians may seem a miniscule step towards Christ's nondiscriminatory love, but it actually might be much more because Pope John Paul II and Benedict XIII heavily based their arguments against women's ordination on the fact that Christ chose twelve male apostles. Francis rightfully understands that choice as a historical moment rather than a binding guideline. The vital truth is that Jesus' humble example was meant to be emulated by all Christians in their relationships, not only with men, but also with women and every member of the human family regardless of their nationality, religion, or lack thereof. Pope Francis has opened a window to let light and air into the stale space where even the discussion of equality for women was vigorously squelched.

We too must open the windows and clear the air of all sexism. I do not want my granddaughter to think an iota less of herself than any boy. I do not want any individual or institution to stand in her way as she strives to find her vocation in life. I hope we all can stand together to help make a world without sexism, a world with true freedom and dignity for all. Ω

Peter Maurin: Fool for Christ

by Christopher Shannon

Editor's Note: This article is excerpted from one which originally appeared in Crisis Magazine *(5/12/12).*

On December 7, 1932, a young, female reporter spent the day covering the national "Hunger March" held in Washington, D.C. to protest the failure of government to address the worsening conditions of the Great Depression. A former communist and recent convert to Roman Catholicism, she had been struggling for several years as to how to integrate her concern for social justice with her new-found Catholic faith. Upon returning to her apartment following the march, she found waiting for her the man that would provide this longed-for integration. The woman was Dorothy Day. The man was Peter Maurin. In May of 1933, the two began publication of *The Catholic Worker,* a newspaper dedicated to promoting a Catholic vision of the reconstruction of society.

Dorothy Day went on to become one of the most famous American Catholics of the twentieth century.... Peter Maurin has received far less recognition. Day herself considered him the holiest man she ever knew, yet conceded he was something of an eccentric. Still, she remained convinced that he was a truly Christian eccentric, a holy fool in the tradition of Saint Paul, or more specifically, Saint Francis.

Maurin embraced and promoted holy poverty in a modern industrial age that presented new challenges to the Church's understanding of wealth. Whereas Saint Francis had stood against a greed and decadence acknowledged by the moral authorities of his age as a sin, Maurin set himself against a capitalist modernity that held up the pursuit of wealth as a positive virtue in itself. This new attitude toward material gain presented the additional challenge of fostering new inequalities of wealth even as it destroyed the traditional social bonds that had softened and humanized the old inequalities of traditional European Catholic societies. Secular critics of capitalism accepted the passing of traditional society as a positive good and focused on equalizing the distribution of wealth created by capitalist modernity. Maurin decried the poverty that he saw in the slums of the urban, industrial West, but saw both reformist and revolutionary plans for wealth redistribution as simply the democratization of greed. Against the modern alternatives of material poverty and material wealth, Maurin sought to lead the modern poor from their current, negative state of destitution—which combined material deprivation with social dislocation—to a future, positive condition of poverty, which allowed for the satisfaction of basic material needs but sought true wealth in communion with God and humanity.

Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin

Needless to say, this vision was a difficult sell in 1930s America. At a time when many American Catholics were still trying to achieve basic sustenance within the modern industrial system, Maurin was calling for a rejection of that system and a return to the traditional, rural communal life that had sustained the Catholic faith in the pre-industrial age. Like Wendell Berry in our own time, Maurin was dismissed by many as a nostalgic dreamer. Also like Berry, Maurin knew the world of which he spoke. Born in the southern French village of Oultet in 1877, Maurin spent his childhood living as traditional a Catholic peasant existence as was possible in that place and time. Like many a rural youth faced with declining prospects within traditional rural society, Maurin eventually left his native village to attend school. Intended to improve his chances for success, education simply made Maurin more discontented with the modern developments he saw inexorably transforming the world around him.

Refusing to become a "boomer" and unable to remain a "sticker," Maurin instead became a vagabond. He traveled the world working any number of industrial and agricultural jobs, all the while trying to imagine a humane and Catholic alternative to industrial capitalist modernity. A voracious and eclectic reader, he found his greatest inspiration in the social encyclicals of the popes.... Maurin was more skeptical than the popes on the possibility of Christianizing the industrial system through piecemeal reform, but he affirmed and developed their insistence that true harmony and the proper ordering of society would only come by drawing on the traditional philosophical and social principles that had sustained Catholic life in the pre-industrial age.

Maurin used *The Catholic Worker* to evangelize the working class in an authentic Catholic vision of society. ...Maurin articulated this Catholic alternative in playfully cryptic-yet-didactic prose poems he called "easy essays."

...Peter Maurin died on May 15, 1949.Ω

Better Off by Peter Maurin

The world would be better off
if people tried to be better.
And people would become better
if they stopped trying to be better off.

For when everybody tries to become
better off,
nobody is better off.
But when everybody tries to become
better, everybody is better off.

Everybody would be rich
if nobody tried
to become richer.
And nobody would be poor
if everybody tried to be poorest.

And everybody would be
what we ought to be
if everybody tried to be
what we want the other one to be.Ω

Letters

Anthony Russo

Hello Scott,
Just received the *Catholic Radical*. Good article by Claire on her harrowing trip to Burundi. I'm planning on copying the Leonardo Boff article and handing them out at my weekly anti-war vigil.

I really liked your "Gun Culture" article. I was quite a hunter in my youth and came close to accidentally blowing my head off with a 12-gage shotgun. I felt the breeze from the birdshot going by my nose. One possible correction in your article: the semi-automatic 308 caliber gun. The definition of semi-automatic is that one round is fired each time you pull the trigger, so 400-600 rounds per minutes is not possible, as I see it.

Daniel Sicken
Brattleboro, Vermont

Editor's Note: Our friend Daniel is absolutely correct about the 308 semi-automatic rifle. It fires between 45 and 65 shots per minute. The fully automatic version fires 400-600 shots per minute.

To the Editors,
The article by the Brazilian theologian [Leonardo Boff] is so jolting and true. I have copied it and sent it to many people who are against war. Thank you!

Pierrette Sullivan
Somerset, Massachusetts

Thank you for "Moral Integrity and Voting." We need to get this information out to more Catholics. The "report card" for candidates was very well done!

Anne Lyczak
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Help Scott Beat Ben Carson

Since 2014, former GOP presidential candidate Ben Carson has sold 688,000 print copies of four books, including **You Have a Brain**. Since Scott Schaeffer-Duffy's book **Nothing Is Impossible, Stories from the Life of a Catholic Worker** was released on March 13, it has sold 188 copies. Please help Scott sell the 687,813 additional copies he needs to beat Dr. Carson by buying a book, hosting a reading and signing, posting praise on social media, emailing reviews to Scott, talking the book up with friends and family, and praying for the intercession of Saint Jude and Dorothy Day. Scott realizes that the gap between his sales and Carson's is a large one, but has enormous faith (as his book title implies) that miracles often occur when we ask for them.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

Stories from the life of a Catholic Worker

SCOTT SCHAEFFER-DUFFY

Readers have described Scott's book as "entertaining, unique, hilarious, frank, inspiring, self-deprecating, joyful, wonderful, healing, clever, zany, memorable, and splendid." The widow of the extraordinary Catholic Worker Ammon Hennacy, Joan Thomas, went so far as to call it, "One of the best books I've read in ages; also it's the best Catholic Worker book I've ever read, and I'm including those by Ammon and Dorothy Day." Read it and add your own review on Facebook or Scott's website.

Nothing Is Impossible can be ordered for $24.95 online at www.nothingisimpossiblebook.com or by mail at Saints Francis & Thérèse Catholic Worker, 52 Mason Street, Worcester, MA 01610. Reviews and inquiries can also be sent to Scott at theresecw2@gmail.com. Ω

Catholic Worker Calendar

April 6 & 20 May 4 & 18 — Mass or Evening Prayer: Come join us in prayer and Taize chant at 7 P.M. 52 Mason Street. Followed by refreshments.

April 9, 10, & 17 — Book Signings: Please come to Scott Schaeffer-Duffy's book signings for *Nothing Is Impossible, Stories from the Life of a Catholic Worker*. 1-4 P.M. Barnes and Noble, Lincoln Plaza, Worcester on the 9th, at all the Masses at Boston's Paulist Center on the 10th, and 2-4 P.M at Annie's Book Stop of Worcester on the 17th.

April 9—Earth Day Cleanup: Please come pitch in for a beautification project. 10 A.M. - noon. 52 Mason Street.

April 16 & May 21— Reversing the Gun Culture Vigil: Please join us opposite the entrance to The Gun Parlor shooting range. If you cannot attend, please send us your name or the name of any organization which will endorse this effort. 12:30 - 1:30 P.M. 170 Prescott Street, Worcester.

Mason Street Musings

It was nearly 10:30 p.m. when Joseph strode into the kitchen clad in army fatigues and a hoodie pulled close around his face. He had 15 bucks and needed 3 more to catch the bus to Leicester. Could I cover the difference? Believing his story to be a ruse for getting drug money, I said no; then promptly lectured him about ringing the doorbell before he enters the house.

"You people should lock your doors," he said. "Come on, this is 2016. Get real!"

We have not followed Joseph's advice. Nor have we "locked" our calendars against numerous commitments. In early March, four students from Bridgewater State University and their campus minister, Marlene DeLeon, stayed at Mason Street during their retreat on spirituality and charity. They were an unpretentious lot, rising early to serve at Saint John's soup kitchen and returning in the late afternoon for supper and evening reflections on Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker. When I praised them for spending their spring break on a work retreat, one of the young women said, "Oh, if I were home, I'd just be doing shifts at McDonald's." I was glad we offered an alternative.

Within an hour of bidding farewell to the students, I was interviewing American-Israeli activist Jeff Halper who was on a US tour promoting his latest book, **War Against the People:** *Israel, the Palestinians, and Global Pacification*. Jeff's analysis is dense and urgent. He talked about "security politics," the "Israelization" of our police, and the high-tech arsenal of the "global pacification industry." It is a complex, 2.25 trillion dollar a year industry. Jeff thinks we who oppose its systems of control and death need to know how they work.

"What about hope?" I asked at the end

Grace Sliwoski

of our sobering hour. That was a religious term, he said, and he was not religious. Struggle was his operative word.

I need hope to sustain me in the struggle. I felt it in Jeff's tireless dedication to inform us on what we are up against. I felt it too while attending a March 15th conference at Holy Cross on the local history of the Catholic Worker. Professor David O'Brien convened us. Through stories and much laughter, Catholic Workers and their fellow travelers recalled the store fronts, the soup kitchens, the farms and houses established in Central Massachusetts since 1933, the year the Catholic Worker movement began.

Here was a rejuvenating history, full of comical and sometimes catastrophic tales about people trying to love and speak up for God's gift of life. At Matt Talbot House, Worcester's first Catholic Worker, the audience saw a halo around Arthur Sheehan's head the night he gave his talk on Irish saints. Dan Marshall remembered dodging the dog droppings in the hallway at the Catholic Worker farm in Hubbardston. Beloved Catholic Worker priest Bernie Gilgun was banished from a parish in the city to a rural one for preaching favorably on inter-racial marriage. Worcester had the first interfaith group to provide draft counseling for men refusing to fight in Vietnam.

I thank God for all these local women and men who tried to create a society where it is easier for people to be good, which is what Dorothy and Peter wanted. With tears, faith, humor, and bravado, they wove networks of love that sustain us still, a people's pushback against the systems of control and death.

The mockingbird has returned to Mason Court, and peas are sprouting in the garden. Come visit us this spring. The door, as you know, is open. Ω **Claire**

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